LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~13, wherein said group label is newly determined and assigned dynamically to all nodes belonging to said group of nodes whenever one or more nodes are added to or removed from said group of nodes.

3. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~13, wherein the nodes are under control of the same user.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~13, wherein two different groups of nodes may be merged into one group, the merging process comprising modification of the affected nodes' group label such that a common group label is assigned to the affected nodes.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~13, wherein a group of nodes may be split into two or more groups of nodes, the splitting process comprising modification of the affected nodes' group label.

6. (original) Method according to claim 5, wherein the modification of group labels results in automatically assigning a common group label to the nodes of one resulting group of nodes, and either automatically assigning another common group label to the nodes of the other resulting group of nodes, or leaving the common group label of said nodes of said other resulting group of nodes unchanged.

7. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~13, wherein communication and cooperation between nodes belonging to different groups of nodes is allowed, if the following conditions are fulfilled, namely

the first condition being that a requesting node belongs to a first group of nodes, the group of nodes being connected to at least one other, second group of nodes,

the second condition being that said second group of nodes can detect unambiguously that the request was launched from said first group of nodes, and

the third condition being that for the second group of nodes it is explicitly allowed to communicate and cooperate with the first group of nodes~~, and the fourth condition being that the content or service requested by said first group of nodes is available within said second group of nodes, and released by said second group of nodes, the release referring explicitly to said first group of nodes, or the release referring to a number of groups of nodes including said first group of nodes~~.

8. (original) Method according to claim 7 wherein the third condition is further specified such that if a first group of nodes is allowed to cooperate with a second group of nodes, then said second group of nodes is also allowed to cooperate with said first group of nodes.

9. (original) Method according to claim 7, wherein the third condition is further specified such that if a first group of nodes is allowed to cooperate with a second group of nodes, and the second group of nodes is allowed to cooperate with a third group of nodes, then this constellation leads to that said first group of nodes is allowed to cooperate with said third group of nodes, either with or without interaction of said second group of nodes.

10. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~13, wherein said group label is detached automatically from any node when being disconnected from said group of nodes.

11. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~13, wherein a connection between two nodes has a status, the status defining whether both connected nodes belong to the same group of nodes or not.

12. (original) An apparatus for creating and maintaining a unique electronic group label, the apparatus being associated with a technical device being a first node in a network, and the group label indicating membership in a group of technical devices being nodes in the network, the nodes being capable of providing services or resources to other nodes of the network and using services or resources provided by other nodes of the network, wherein

is available within said second group of nodes, and released by said second group of nodes, the release referring explicitly to said first group of nodes, or the release referring to a number of groups of nodes including said first group of nodes.